

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3158
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2004
COMPENSATORY AFFORESTATION
Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of damage to environment and forest resources during the last three years by each public and private sector companies dealing with mining activities in various parts of the country particularly in Orissa;
- (b) whether plantation of trees has been undertaken in the pits and holes left behind by these companies after mining;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor and the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) to (d) During last three years, 297 project proposals involving 20,295 hectare of forest land for mining have been approved all over the country under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. In respect of Orissa, 26 project proposals involving 2482 hectare of forest land for mining have been approved during this period. Thus, forest cover and forest resources over 20,295 hectare of forest land have been affected due to mining activities. While granting approval for mining under the said Act, specific conditions of compensatory afforestation, safety zone creation, enrichment plantation, reclamation of already exhausted area, overburden dump stabilization are stipulated to mitigate the ill effects arising out of cutting of trees and subsequent mining in that forest area. User Agencies comply with these conditions under the supervision of State Forest Department which are further monitored by the Regional Office of this Ministry. During last three years, compensatory afforestation over 5,240 hectare has been stipulated in lieu of the forest land diverted for mining in respect of Orissa.